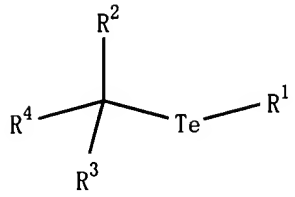
Amendments to the Claims

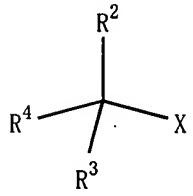
1. (Currently amended) An organotellurium compound represented by the formula (1)



(1)

wherein R^1 is C_1-C_8 alkyl, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_8 alkyl, and R^4 is ~~aryl, substituted aryl,~~ an aromatic heterocyclic ~~group, hydroxycarbonyl~~ group or cyano.

2. (Original) A process for preparing an organotellurium compound of the formula (1) comprising reacting a compound of the formula (2), a compound of the formula (3) and metallic tellurium



(2)

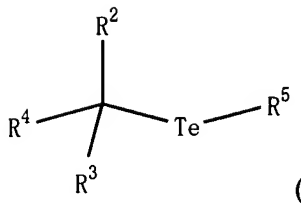
wherein R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as defined above, and X is a halogen atom

$$M(R^1)m \qquad (3)$$

wherein R^1 is as defined above, M is an alkali metal, alkaline earth metal or copper atom, and m is 1 when M is an alkali metal, m is 2 when M is an alkaline earth metal, or m is 1 or 2 when M is a copper atom.

3. (Original) An organotellurium compound of the formula (1) which is obtainable by reacting a compound of the formula (2), a compound of the formula (3) and metallic tellurium.

4. (Original) A living radical polymerization initiator of the formula (4)



(4)

wherein R^5 is C_1-C_8 alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl or aromatic heterocyclic group, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_8 alkyl, and R^4 is aryl, substituted aryl, aromatic heterocyclic group, hydroxycarbonyl or cyano.

5. (Original) A process for producing a living radical polymer characterized by polymerizing a vinyl monomer with use of a compound of the formula (4) as a living radical polymerization initiator.

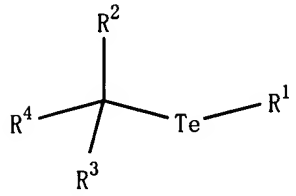
6. (Original) A living radical polymer which is obtainable by subjecting a vinyl monomer to living radical polymerization with use of a living radical polymerization initiator of the formula (4).

7. (Original) A macro living radical polymerization initiator comprising the living radical polymer of claim 6.

8. (Original) A process for producing a block copolymer comprising polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator of claim 7 as a living radical polymerization initiator.

9. (Original) A block copolymer which is obtainable by polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator of claim 7 as a living radical polymerization initiator.

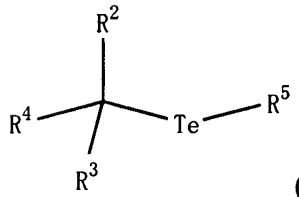
10. (New) An organotellurium compound represented by the formula (5) as defined in claim 1



(5)

wherein R^1 is C_1-C_8 alkyl, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_8 alkyl, and R^4 is cyano.

11. (New) A living radical polymerization initiator of the formula (6) as defined in claim 4



(6)

wherein R^5 is C_1-C_8 alkyl, aryl, substituted aryl or aromatic heterocyclic group, R^2 and R^3 are each a hydrogen atom or C_1-C_8 alkyl, and R^4 is cyano.

12. (New) A process for producing a living radical polymer as defined in claim 5 characterized by polymerizing a vinyl monomer with use of a compound of the formula (6) as a living radical polymerization initiator.

13. (New) A living radical polymer as defined in claim 6 which is obtainable by subjecting a vinyl monomer to living radical polymerization with use of a living radical polymerization initiator of the formula (6).

14. (New) A micro living radical polymerization initiator comprising the living radical polymer of claim 13.

15. (New) A process for producing a block copolymer comprising polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator of claim 14 as a living radical polymerization initiator.

16. (New) A block copolymer which is obtainable by polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator of claim 14 as a living radical polymerization initiator.

17. (New) A macro living radical polymerization initiator for preparing a block copolymer comprising the living radical polymer of claim 6.

18. (New) A process for producing a block copolymer comprising polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator for preparing a block copolymer of claim 7 as a living radical polymerization initiator.

19. (New) A block copolymer which is obtainable by polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator for preparing a block copolymer of claim 7 as a living radical polymerization initiator.

20. (New) A macro living radical polymerization initiator for preparing a block copolymer comprising the living radical polymer of claim 13.

21. (New) A process for producing a block copolymer comprising polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator for preparing a block copolymer of claim 14 as a living radical polymerization initiator.

22. (New) A block copolymer which is obtainable by polymerizing a vinyl monomer using the macro living radical polymerization initiator for preparing a block copolymer of claim 14 as a living radical polymerization initiator.